

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 10, 11, 14, and 18 AMEND claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 74, wherein

the searching for subwords in the database is performed by searching for subwords which have a prescribed minimum length.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 74, wherein

if a plurality of subwords are found for the same word part, the longest subword is selected therefrom.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for speech synthesis by a grapheme/phoneme conversion, comprising:

searching for subwords of a given word in a database which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, the given word having a subword registered in the database, and a further constituent which is not registered in the database;

selecting a phonetic transcription from the database for the subword;

phonetically transcribing the further constituent of the given word with the aid of an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed based on phonetic context, as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword; and

combining the phonetic transcription of the subword and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a neuron network,

the given word has at least first and second subwords registered in the database,

a search is made for both the first and second subwords in the database,

a phonetic transcription is selected from the database for both the first and second subwords,

the phonetic transcription of the first and second subwords and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent are combined,

the further constituent in the given word is arranged between the first subword and the second subword, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the first subword and the phonetic transcription of the second subword.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 74, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a rule-based method.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 74, wherein

the first and second subwords are found in a first database, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a second database which contains the phonetic transcription of filling particles normally used in the case of composite words.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method for speech synthesis by a grapheme/phoneme conversion, comprising:

searching for subwords of a given word in a database which contains phonetic transcriptions of words, the given word having a subword registered in the database, and a further constituent which is not registered in the database;

selecting a phonetic transcription from the database for the subword;

phonetically transcribing the further constituent of the given word with the aid of an out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment, the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment of the further constituent being performed based on phonetic context, as a function of the phonetic transcription of the subword; and

combining the phonetic transcription of the subword and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent wherein

the searching for subwords in the database is performed by searching for subwords which have a prescribed minimum length,

if a plurality of subwords are found for the same word part, the longest subword is selected therefrom,

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a neuron network,

the given word has at least first and second subwords registered in the database,

a search is made for both the first and second subwords in the database,

a phonetic transcription is selected from the database for both the first and second subwords,

the phonetic transcription of the first and second subwords and the phonetic transcription of the further constituent are combined,

the further constituent in the given word is arranged between the first subword and the second subword, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed as a function of the phonetic transcription of the first subword and the phonetic transcription of the second subword.

16. (Previously Presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 15, wherein

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a rule-based method.

17. (Previously Presented) The method for speech synthesis as claimed in claim 16, wherein

the subwords are found in a first database, and

the out-of-vocabulary (OOV) treatment for phonetic transcription of the further constituent is performed by a second database which contains the phonetic transcription of filling particles normally used in the case of composite words.

18. (Cancelled)